

# E1-1708  
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2005-06

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13 October 2005

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K. Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB-490 (Sub No. 1X) Greenville County Economic Development Corporation – Abandonment and Discontinuance Exemption in Greenville County, SC

Dear Mr. Williams,

Palmetto Conservation Foundation, a statewide nonprofit conservation organization with over 2,000 members and supporters, strongly supports the reference abandonment and discontinuance in Greenville County, SC.

The proposed abandonment has strong and widespread support for eventual public use as a potential “rail-with-trail” or “rail-to-trail” conversion. An interim use of the corridor as a trail would benefit the public and will spur positive economic development from the city of Greenville through Furman University and Travelers Rest, SC.

In addition, many Greenville residents are concerned with the negative effect that may result on property values if industrial service is restored.

Palmetto Conservation Foundation is actively involved in several “rails-to-trails” conversions in South Carolina, including a similar project in neighboring Spartanburg County, SC. The Greenville & Northern Railroad project has significant national, regional, state and local support. Granting abandonment and interim trail use to Upstate Forever will have a positive impact on the area and strongly benefit the public good.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Driggers  
Executive Director